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STATE OF UTAH

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NEWS RELEASE

Utahns Break Record for Filing Taxes Electronically

Governor Mike Leavitt today announced that a record-breaking 300,000 Utahns have filed their state income taxes electronically this year. Representing almost one-third of total returns filed, the number shows that online government services are a good fit for Utah's increasingly technology-oriented population.

"More and more Utahns prefer electronic methods of dealing with state agencies," said Leavitt, who has set an aggressive e-government goal of offering all appropriate state government services online by 2004. "This is another example of serving residents in a way that fits their lifestyles."

The filing population of Utah has increased by roughly 22% over the last seven years, yet the efficiencies that come as a result of paperless government have allowed the Tax Commission to handle an increasing number of returns without the need to increase processing staff or other resources.

"E-filing numbers continue to climb. People like the fact that their refunds come so much faster, and we like the fact that the information on returns comes in with less chance of errors. It's better for everyone," said Rod Marrelli, Executive Director for the Utah State Tax Commission. The Tax Commission is one of many state agencies making it easier for people to do business with the state of Utah by going electronic.

The state's official home page, Utah.gov, connects with the public 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Utah.gov hosts over 3 million user visits and supports approximately 425,000 transactions each month. The site offers a wide range of online services, including vehicle registration renewals, business tax filings, hunting and fishing licenses, business name registration, official form downloads, and hundreds of government information resources.

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